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REMARKS

Status Summary

Claims 1-17 and 24-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 13-15, 25 and 26 have been allowed, and claims 1-12, 16, 17, 24, 27, and 28 presently stand rejected. The Amendments to the specification are to correct minor typographical errors only and do not add any new matter to the specification.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 13-15, 25 and 26.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claim Rejection based on Yoakum et al. in view of Leung

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 16-17, 24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,674 to Yoakum et al., hereinafter referred to as "Yoakum," in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,343 to Leung, hereinafter referred to as "Leung." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to recite that each cluster node is adapted to route SIP signaling messages using the SIP location information stored in the local database and performing the SIP protocol function includes routing SIP signaling messages using the common SIP location information stored by each cluster node, respectively. Support for this amendment is found, for example at page 8, lines 22-24 of the present specification.

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There is no teaching or suggestion in Yoakum and Leung, either alone or in combination, of a router or routing methodology whereby cluster nodes are capable of routing SIP signaling messages based upon their own local copies of SIP location information.

Yoakum is directed to a hierarchical database that responds to queries and returns results to a user, rather than routing SIP signaling messages. Yoakum discloses a first (master) proxy server that receives a message from a network element. (See Yoakum Abstract). Further, Yoakum teaches in the Abstract that:

the first proxy server performs a first database lookup If the first proxy server does not obtain the requested information, the first proxy server formulates a second . . . message and forwards the message to a second proxy server. A (sic) second proxy server receives the second message and performs a second database lookup The second proxy server sends the results from the second database lookup to the first proxy server and the first proxy server forwards the results to the database user.

From this passage neither the first (master) proxy server nor the second proxy server routes SIP signaling messages. At all levels of the database hierarchy taught in Yoakum the servers simply query a database and return results to the requesting source, which is the first (master) proxy server in the case of the second proxy server and to the user of the database in the case of the first (master) proxy server. Querying a database and providing a response is not routing SIP signaling messages based on stored SIP location information as claimed because the database queries in Yoakum are terminated at each proxy server rather than routed.

Leung likewise fails to teach or suggest a SIP signaling router with cluster nodes that route SIP signaling messages based on local databases. Leung discloses a

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method for updating replicated databases in a telecommunications network. The architecture in Leung is similar to that disclosed in Yoakum in that the replicated databases receive queries from central offices and provide responses to the central offices. For example, Leung states:

The replicated database can be accessed for call setup and other signaling purposes. For a call originating the visited country or region and destined for the roaming customers, queries can be launched to the visitor database. Calls initiated in the US will query the home database. (See column 13, lines 19-23 of Leung.)

From this passage and from the architecture illustrated in Figure 1 of Leung, Leung discloses a system where a replicated database is used to terminate queries and provide responses to a central office. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of a SIP signaling router with cluster nodes that route SIP signaling messages based on local databases.

Therefore, based upon Yoakum and Leung, alone or in combination, there has been no teaching or suggestion that each cluster node is adapted to route SIP signaling messages using the SIP location information stored in the local database and performing the SIP protocol function includes routing SIP signaling messages using the common SIP location information stored by each cluster node, as recited in claims 1 and 24, respectively. Accordingly, Yoakum and Leung, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1 and 24 for at least the above reasons and thus fail to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for at least the above reasons. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1 and 24, and their dependent claims, 2-4, 6-7, 16-17, and 28, respectively, should be withdrawn. It is respectfully

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submitted that claims 1-4, 6-7, 16-17, 24 and 28 are in proper condition for allowance and notice of the same is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

II. Claim Rejection based on Yoakum et al. in view of Leung and further in view of
Bommareddy et al.

Claims 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yoakum in view of Leung, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,779,039 to Bommareddy et al., hereinafter referred to as "Bommareddy." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above with respect to claim 1, from which claims 8-12 depend, Yoakum and Leung, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that each cluster node is adapted to route SIP signaling messages using the SIP location information stored in the local database. Bommareddy likewise fails to teach or suggest these features.

Bommareddy discloses a cluster of routers that share a logical IP address. (See Bommareddy Abstract). The routers disclosed in Bommareddy are IP routers, rather than SIP signaling routers. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion in Bommareddy that any of the routers route SIP signaling messages using SIP location information stored in its local databases.

Accordingly, Yoakum, Leung and Bommareddy, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the claim features and thus fail to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for at least the above reasons. Therefore, the rejections of claims 8-12 should be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that claims 8-12 are in proper

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condition for allowance and notice of the same is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

III. Claim Rejection based on Yoakum et al. in view of Leung and further in view of
Lin et al.

Claims 5 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yoakum in view of Leung, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,721 to Lin et al., hereinafter referred to as "Lin." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above with respect to claims 1 and 24, from which claims 5 and 27 respectively depend, Yoakum and Leung, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that each cluster node is adapted to route SIP signaling messages using the SIP location information stored in the local database and performing the SIP protocol function includes routing SIP signaling messages using the common SIP location information stored by each cluster node. Likewise, Lin does not teach or suggest these features either.

Lin relates to a protocol that provides assurance of consistent replication of objects from a server to caching servers over data communications networks. (See Lin Abstract). Lin teaches "an application-layer protocol which guarantees delivery of objects such as files." (See Lin Abstract). However, Lin does not teach or suggest that each cluster node is adapted to route SIP signaling messages using the SIP location information stored in the local database and performing the SIP protocol function includes routing SIP signaling messages using the common SIP location information stored by each cluster node.

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Accordingly, Yoakum, Leung and Lin, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the claim features for at least the above reasons and thus fail to establish a prima facie case of obviousness for at least the above reasons. Therefore, the rejections of claims 5 and 27 should be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 27 are in proper condition for allowance and notice of the same is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks and Amendments, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

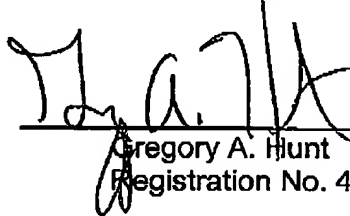
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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